

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEL AV 01424 281623Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01  
/057 W

-----282359 074865 /66

R 281434Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5049  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 1424

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: IS, JO, PDEV, PFOR  
SUBJECT: GOI REACTION TO GUSH EMUNIM ATTEMPT TO SETTLE AT  
MES'HA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. AN ATTEMPT FEBRUARY 27 BY FIFTY MEMBERS OF THE GUSH  
EMUNIM TO SETTLE AT MES'HA (ON THE WEST BANK, JUST OUTSIDE  
THE GREEN LINE, OPPOSITE KAFR QASIM) WAS QUICKLY THWARTED  
BY IDF TROOPS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE WOULD-BE  
SETTLERS ARRIVED AT MES'HA AT 0730 HRS., THE FIRST TROOPS  
CAME ONLY THREE HOURS LATER, AND THESE WERE SHORTLY REIN-  
FORCED BY TROOPS FROM SIX HELICOPTERS. ALTHOUGH THE  
SETTLERS HAD LEFT THE SITE BY EARLY AFTERNOON, TROOPS  
REMAINED WITH CONSIDERABLE EQUIPMENT.

2. IN THE REGULARLY-SCHEDULED CABINET SESSION THE SAME  
DAY, DEFENSE MINISTER PERES AND MINISTER GALILI  
(HEAD OF THE SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE) TERMED THE SETTLE-  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEL AV 01424 281623Z

MENT ATTEMPT "A GRAVE ACT, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT HAD  
BEEN MADE CLEAR OFFICIALLY BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THE  
SETTLEMENT NUCLEUS THAT THE SETTLEMENT SITE HAD IN  
FACT BEEN APPROVED, AND THAT THE DELAY WAS NOT BECAUSE  
OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, BUT SOLELY IN THE SETTLE-  
MENT OPERATIONAL SPHERE, AND NOT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S  
PART" (FROM THE GOI CABINET COMMUNIQUE).

3. THE MES'HA SETTLEMENT SITE FIRST BROKE INTO THE REALM OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE LAST OCTOBER (SEE TEL AVIV 7247 AND 7486), AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE JANUARY 18 (FBIS-TA 182004Y). AT THAT TIME, GUSH EMUNIM ANNOUNCED THAT IT INTENDED TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR MOVING TO MES'HA, BUT DELAYED FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO US. ON FEBRUARY 4, SIXTY-FOUR MK'S SIGNED A PETITION ASKING THE GOI TO ALLOW THE SETTLERS TO MOVE IN IMMEDIATELY (JERUSALEM 196). ACCORDING TO AHAARETZ REPORT FEBRUARY 18 (LITANI), PART OF THE LAND AT MES'HA IS ABSENTEE PROPERTY OWNED BY ISRAELI ARABS. (NOTE: THE ABSENTEE PROPERTY LAW IN EFFECT DEFINES AS "ABSENTEE" ANY PROPERTY OWNED BY ISRAELI ARABS WHICH IS NOT LOCATED AT THE OWNER'S PLACE OF RESIDENCE.) THE OWNERS APPARENTLY DO NOT WISH TO AGREE TO A LEGAL SETTLEMENT (PUN NOT INTENDED) OVER THE LAND. THIS REPORT IS CORROBORATED BY A FEBRUARY 28 JERUSALEM POST STORY CITING "DIFFIVQIES IN ACQUIRING THE LAND" AT MES'HA. END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

4.COMMENT:THE GOI AND GUSH EMUNIM AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A JEWISH SETTLEMENT--EVENTUALLY, AN URBAN CENTER--AT MES'HA.BUT THE GOI DOES NOT WISH TO BE PUBLICLY PRESSURED BY GUSH EMUNIM, AND IS SENSITIVE TO THE LEGALITIES NECESSARY IN ACQUIRING LAND TITLE. THE HAARETZ REPORT CITED ABOVE SUGGESTS THAT FOR THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TEL AV 01424 281623Z

REASON, THE GOI MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO UNDERTAKE LAND EXPROPRIATION ON THE WEST BANK IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE GOI WOULD NOT RELISH ANOTHER SQUABBLE OVER "ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT" AT A TIME WHEN RABIN IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. DUNNIGAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, LAND SETTLEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TELAV01424  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770069-0206  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t1977021/aaaaaawv.tel  
**Line Count:** 104  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 8b371fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3228158  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOI REACTION TO GUSH EMUNIM ATTEMPT TO SETTLE AT MES\HA BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED  
**TAGS:** PDEV, PFOR, IS, JO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/8b371fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009